

Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-02

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----- 021953

R 242120 Z APR 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: EFIS, XP, JA
SUBJECT: FISHERIES: PLACEMENT OF US OBSERVERS ABOARD
JAPANESE CRAB MOTHERSHIPS

REF: TOKYO 4906

1. SINCE MINISTER NOMURA OF LOCAL EMBASSY HAD LED JAPANESE DELEGATION IN NOVEMBER NEGOTIATIONS AND WAS PERSONALLY FAMILIAR WITH DISCUSSIONS ON ENFORCEMENT WE DISCUSSED MATTER OF US OBSERVERS WITH HIM BY TELEPHONE APRIL 23. NOMURA CAME IN FOLLOWING MORNING WITH FURTHER RESPONSE FROM GOJ TO EFFECT THAT IF TWO US OBSERVERS WOULD NOT OBJECT TO SHARING CABIN ABOARD KEIKO MARU THEY COULD BE ACCEPTED ABOARD THAT VESSEL. KOYO MARU WAS MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEM SINCE ALL LIVING SPACE NOW OCCUPIED BY CREW AND IN ORDER ACCOMMODATE EVEN ONE US OBSERVER DISEMBARKATION OF A CREW MEMBER OR MEMBERS WOULD BE REQUIRED. IN TURN THIS REQUIRED PARTIAL RENEGOTIATION OF CONTRACT OF COMPANY WITH FISHERMEN' S UNION AND NOMURA COULD GIVE NO ASSURANCES AS TO TIME THIS WOULD TAKE OR RESULTS
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THOUGH HE SAID GOJ WAS URGING COMPANY TO PROCEED.

2. WE POINTED OUT THAT HAVING NO OBSERVATION AT ALL ON ONE OF TWO SHIPS PLACED US IN DIFFICULT POSITION WITH PUBLIC IN VIEW OF UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED LAST NOVEMBER. WE URGED THAT GOJ DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE AT LEAST MINIMUM OBSERVATION ABOARD KOYO MARU AT EARLIEST DATE POSSIBLE.

3. MEANWHILE WE PROPOSE TO ACCEPT OFFER RE KEIKO MARU. PLEASE SEEK TO ENSURE THAT JFA HAS COMMUNICATED WITH MASTER THAT VESSEL IN ORDER THAT HE WILL BE RECEPTIVE WHEN COAST GUARD CONTACTS HIM. WE ARE SEEKING TO ENSURE SAME THROUGH LOCAL EMBASSY. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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